TANY'S DELL PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Sept 2024

Statement of Intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so that they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. The emotional health and well-being of everyone in our community is paramount. Children learn about how to follow the *Tany's Dell Way* which, in addition to focusing on children reaching their full potential also promotes citizenship – How to be a Star Citizen. Our child friendly version of the Anti-Bullying Policy is called *Who Cares? We Do!* Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school and we actively teach children to recognise what bullying is and how to deal with it. If bullying does occur, it will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is an action that can hurt someone on the inside or on the outside. It is done on purpose, it's not an accident. (If someone is hurt during a game by accident this is not bullying, but if every time they played the game they were intentionally hurt by the same person or people, this would be bullying). Bullying happens more than once, the bully/ies do it over and over again, chipping away at a person's self-esteem and confidence. Nobody deserves to be bullied – **EVER**.

Bullying can be......
- *Emotional*   being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting – includes online emotional abuse
- *Physical*   pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- *Racist*   racial taunts, graffiti, gestures in including online racist abuse
- *Sexual*   unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments including online
- *Homophobic*   because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality and/or gender, includes online
- *Verbal*   name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing, online verbal abuse
- *Cyber/Online*   All areas of internet, such as social media or gaming, text messaging
    Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera & video facilities

This policy should be read in conjunction with…
- DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education
- TMAT Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Online Safety Policy and Code of Conduct
- Tany's Dell Behaviour and Discipline Policy
- Tany's Dell Equalities Policy
- Tany's Dell Teaching and Learning Policy

Everybody has the right to be treated with respect – Bullying really hurts. Pupils who are bullying others need to learn different ways of behaving. We have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Objectives of this Policy

- All adults and pupils should understand what bullying is.
- All adults in school should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents/carers should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents/carers should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- doesn't want to go on the school / public bus
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts to stammer
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- flinching away from other children
- reluctance to put themselves forward during the choosing of groups / group work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or " go missing"
- has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received
- has started to change things about themselves
- has mentioned changes to their online use and relationships

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems that may relate to Child Protection (see Child Protection Policy), but bullying and cyber/online bullying should be considered a possibility and will always be investigated.

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to staff (even if it occurs out of school hours eg. Online bullying)
2. Child-friendly records are kept of racial, homophobic, bi-phobic and transphobic comments so that children understand that it is wrong.
3. Training for pupils who may be victims of bullying *(I don't like it when you … **STOP IT**!)*
4. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff
5. In serious / ongoing cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
6. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted
7. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
8. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour
9. Bullies may be issued with a behaviour support plan (see Behaviour and Discipline policy).
10. Reasonable adjustment will be made for pupils with SEN

Outcomes

1) The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise
2) In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered
3) If possible, the pupils will be reconciled
4) After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

Prevention

Methods for helping children to prevent bullying will be used as and when appropriate, these may include:

- writing a set of school rules / agreeing a set of class rights and responsibilities
- signing the children's promise – The Tany's Dell Way
- training pupils - using role-play as a means of empowering pupils (victims)
- regular training and updates on how to keep safe online
- reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- discussing the responsibilities / accountabilities of a being a bystander
- having discussions about bullying and the importance of stopping it